

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in \_\_\_\_\_ Water (Name of Water System/Business)

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what actions we are taking to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took \_\_\_\_\_ (number) samples for coliform bacteria during \_\_\_\_\_ (month). \_\_\_\_\_ (number/Percentage) of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than \_\_\_\_\_ (sample number/percent of samples) may contain coliform.

### What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are/care for the elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of total coliforms is a possible health concern. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves.

### What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves but a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

We are taking/have taken the following corrective actions:

If you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of water system contact) (Phone)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing address of PWS contact)

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

PWS Operator/Responsible Party:

You must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation. [40 CFR 141.201(b)] You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists.

**Community Systems must use one of the following methods [40 CFR 141.203(c)]:**

- hand or direct delivery
- mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

**Non-Community Systems must use one of the following methods:**

- posting in conspicuous locations
- hand delivery
- mail

**In addition**, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, you may print the notice on your system's letterhead.

**Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking/have taken. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with total coliform violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We are chlorinating and flushing the water system.
- We are increasing sampling for coliform bacteria.
- We are investigating the source of contamination.
- We are repairing the wellhead seal (or storage tank).
- We will inform you when additional samples show no coliform bacteria.

Please mail this statement of certification **and** a copy of the printed notice with your PWS ID# clearly written on it, along with the dates the notice was posted to:

Breann Bockstahler  
US EPA Region 8  
Drinking Water Program (8P-W-DW)  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Or you can fax a copy to: Attn: Bre Bockstahler at **1-877-876-9101**. If you have questions about your total coliform violation call Bre Bockstahler at 1-800-227-8917, ext. 312-6034 or (303) 312-6034.

**Certification of Public Notification**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the attached public notification was issued  
(PWS Operator/Responsible Party)  
from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Date) (Date)

The attached notice was issued by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Method of delivery)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_